

November 2022

Volume 20, Issue 11

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Wednesday
November 2, 2022
HCYEC
Meeting 1:00 pm
CEU 2:00 pm

"Growing Elderberries in the Texas Hill Country"



Beth McMahan,
Horticulture Agent

Bio page 8

"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity".

President's Message

Dave Kinneberg



Two very relevant questions were asked at the October general meeting regarding location:

1) Where do our MG's live? and
2) Are there additional costs associated with meeting in other counties? I couldn't answer at the time but, thanks to Jackie Connelly and a couple of emails to county agents, I can now. The information is interesting but not surprising.

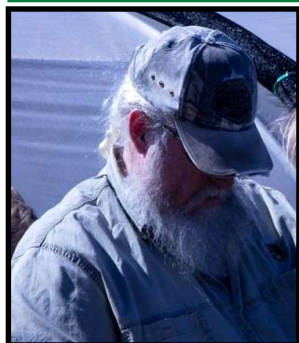
First, the geographical distribution of our members. According to Jackie, we currently have 116 members, 62% of whom live in Kerr County, 22% in Gillespie County, 13% in Kendall County and 3% in Bandera County. Kerrville is the most convenient location for the majority of our members. However, could we attract new MG's from other counties if we met outside of Kerrville? We won't know unless we give it a try.

Second, additional costs. We can use the Rec Center in Bandera, the new Ag facility in Fredericksburg and, of course, the HCYEC in Kerrville for no charge. We need to schedule far in advance and there is the possibility in Bandera and Kerrville that a "paying customer" can bump us off the schedule. Stephen Zoeller, the agent in Kendall County said the extension office in Boerne does not have a suitable facility, but he would "probably be able to find" us a place.

There is always an element of uncertainty in trying something new. And nothing is permanent. If we decide to hold meetings in other counties and discover that it doesn't work, we simply go back to our current routine. Let's take a vote at the November meeting and see which option is most popular.

I also want to address another issue from the October meeting. As mentioned, one of our members received an email, supposedly from me, asking for donations to a veteran's charity. It turns out that the email came from an address that looks nothing like my actual email address (which can be found in our "member zone" on the website). Clearly, someone thought that impersonating me

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Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

This has been a season that I'm happy to say "*Adios*", "*farewell*", "*goodbye*", "*Hasta la vista*" and "*good riddance*" to. I know I am not the only one that had set backs this season, but I also know of some that have had success. To those, my hat's off to you, well done. In all honesty, I have to admit that I have extended my scope of knowledge this year. The new wicking beds that I made performed great. I'm very pleased with them and will be making more in the future. Throughout the hot dry summer, the wickingbeds were able to maintain moisture levels in the soil and kept my plants alive. I believe the heat kept them from producing fruit during the summer.

Beth McMahon inspired me, at one of her Plantastic meetings last spring, to try and grow potatoes and winter squash. I planted regular potatoes, sweet potatoes and butternut squash. I have grown each of them in the past but with marginal success. The butternut squash was planted in my big raised bed along with the usual summer squash. I trellised them as they grew. Later, after the summer squash was finished, I took the trellis out and allowed the butternut squash to vine across the top of the bed. I'm very pleased with the results thus far and there are still more to be harvested.



Butternut Squash Harvest

I planted the regular potatoes in three grow bags. My intention was to place the grow bags into a plastic kiddy pool to keep the soil moist. I was unable to find a pool until mid-summer. By then, oil prices were ridiculously high causing anything made of plastic to be high as well. I ended up not buying a plastic kiddy pool to use with the potatoes. The potatoes did not produce much at all. I did, however, find a small plastic kiddy pool at a resale shop recently and may experiment with it next year.



Sweet Potato Vines



Squash Vines

The sweet potatoes seem to have grown well. Lot of foliage and I have harvested a few of the sweet potatoes just to see how they did. I've stopped watering them so that the vines will dry out. In researching sweet potatoes, I read that they need to dry up and give the skins a chance to toughen up in order to store them properly. I will be digging them up soon. I'll save that for next time.

HCMG Welcomes Newly Certified Members from the Class of 2022



Jodi Tippens with President Dave Kinneberg



Dave Kinneberg, Julie Lewis & mentor, Debbie Bacon



Dave Kinneberg, Sheridan Stringer & mentor Raeann Reid



Diane McRae and Dave Kinneberg

President's message continued from page 1

would confer legitimacy to an illegitimate request. After talking to friends who hold executive positions in local charities and golf associations, this type of scam is not uncommon in Kerrville. Please, always check the source of "strange" emails, especially one asking for money.

The November meeting should be busy. I look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday Nov 2 at 1 PM at the usual spot.



Fall Aster

By Darla Custer, MG and Sue Hall, MG

A MG demonstration garden is usually a project to educate the public; however, this year, Darla and I also received an education on growing Fall Asters. In 2021 our plants grew throughout the summer producing long, weak stems. By the time they flowered in the fall, the stems were flopping over leaving large gaps in the centers of the plants and overwhelming surrounding plants.

In the spring of 2022, we began research to see if we could cut the plant back without it losing its ability to flower. If so, when should we cut it back and to what length should we cut it. Our beginning source was the TX A&M Agrilife Extension Service which led to numerous TX Master Gardener sites. Imagine our delight when one site was Demo Garden-Hill Country TX Master Gardeners. It seems that most every MG chapter likes Fall Asters and the sites gave credit for their information to planttagg.com.

According to this site, the fall aster stems should be pruned back by one-third to one-half, sometime in late June or early July. This encourages more bushy, less leggy growth and lateral stems with more blooms.

We followed the directions and every week in September diligently inspected the stem tips, checking for buds—nothing; just more leaf development. The Fall Garden Tour was rapidly approaching and we were wondering, could all those directions be wrong. Then on September 22, ten precious flowers appeared and by the 29th, the fall aster was radiant in its blue-purple, yellow polka dot skirt. As on schedule, the flowers were also buzzing with bees, proving the claim that the fall aster is the “best bee friendly plant for the Hill Country.”

The word “aster” is Latin for star. Another common name is “Michaelmas daisy”, named for a Christian feast day of St. Michael on September 26th since that is the usual flowers’ bloom time. At one time, almost 600 aster-like perennial flowers were classified as asters. However, the botanical taxonomy was revised in the 1990s and now only 180 varieties native to Asia and Europe are classified as “true” asters. During the reclassification, North American species were grouped into 4 genera, with the Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Arkansas asters labeled *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*.



Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



Glory Community Garden

**Fall Festival
October 22, 2022**

Rev Allen Noah thanking Jeremy Walther of Pint & Plow for his support.

Imelda Horne showing children how to make wildflower seed bombs

HCMGs Dave Kinneberg, Al Perry & Anne Brown with display - and taking applications for the next class, too!

Pam Umstead with the Kerrville Fire Department

**Photo Credit:
Pam Umstead**





Free lunch, games & fun



**Free micro chipping by
Kerrville Pets Alive!**



Glory Community Garden Fall Festival

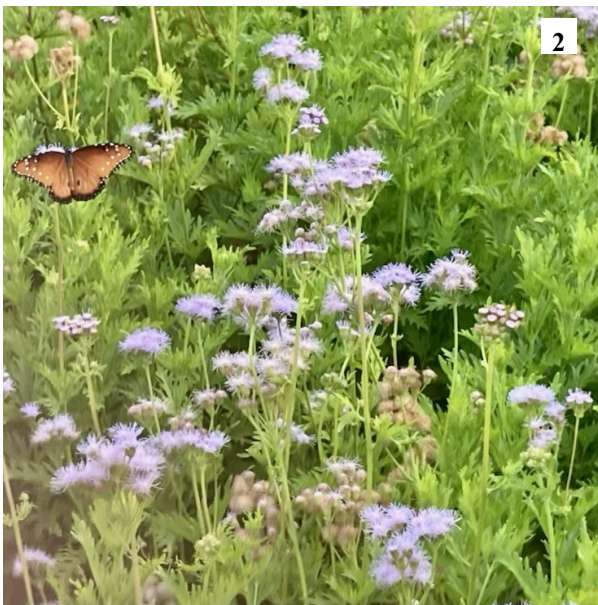


Photography Project Kids take pictures in the Demonstration Garden



Jamie Edwards is in the first grade, she sent me 6 pictures and Brandon Edwards is in the 3rd grade, he sent me 5 pictures. All of these pictures were taken on their parent's cell phones and they had so much fun! I hope you enjoy them, thank you!

Submitted by Jennifer Smith, Kerr County 4-H Agent



1. Penta lanceota
2. Gregg's Mistflower
3. Dianthus gratianopolitanus (Pinks)
4. Single Bloom, Chrysanthum indicum
5. Carnation caryophyllus (Dianthus)
6. Fall Aster

Frank Dunlap, keeper of the demonstration garden's butterfly way station, discovered monarch butterfly caterpillars feeding on the Texas milkweed he planted there last year. Monarchs are one of several species of butterflies fluttering in the garden. A casual walk through the demonstration garden introduces the visitor to a vast pallet of native and adapted host and pollinator plants favored by birds, butterflies, and bees.

Yikes!

By Vickie Killeen, MG

Welcome to Fall. I went out to water a hanging basket and look what I found. He's one fast critter trying to avoid the hose spray. Now my problem is how do I get him off my screened porch. I'll have to reach into the foliage to take the basket down, & I have visions of him climbing down my arm! Maybe I can keep him as part of my Day of the Dead decorations for book group in a few days. Won't they be surprised.



Tarantulas have become an October tradition at our house. Our first year here I opened the front door, and one was on the porch next to the doorbell. Last year one was hiding in one of my window boxes off our bedroom. This one has brazenly crawled through the pet door on our second story screened porch



Elizabeth “Beth” McMahon is the Gillespie County Horticulture Extension Agent. She started with Gillespie County in late July 2016. Formerly she worked as the Brazoria County Horticulture Extension Agent from January 2015-July 2016, and as a Research Assistant from January 2014-January 2015 with the AgriLife Extension Viticulture & Fruit Lab here in Fredericksburg. She got her Master of Science degree in Horticulture from Oklahoma State University, and her undergraduate degree in Rangeland Management and Horticulture from Texas A&M University, College Station. Beth McMahon grew up in Harper, Texas and is glad to return to the area. In her spare time she enjoys vegetable gardening and walking. She is pleased to receive plant related questions at the Gillespie County Office and particularly enjoys plant identification.
 You can contact her at 830-997-3452.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
October 5, 2022**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Dave Kinneberg called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance – The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Rachel Garrison provided the invocation.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg remarked about today's presentation on the screen. He stated that the many photos of the flowers on each slide were taken by 1st grader, Jamie Edwards and her 3rd grader brother, Brandon.

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto indicated there was indeed a quorum

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2022 Meeting – Melayne Arnold moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Barbara Castillo.

Treasurer's Report – Rachel Garrison reported that several rain barrels were sold. Food for the 20th Anniversary celebration was a big expense for last month's disbursements. The complete Treasurer's report is posted on the HCMG website.

New Business

New MG's! – Donna Hugly, Julie Lewis, Sheridan Stringer, Jodi Tippens and Diane McRae were recognized for successfully completing the program. They were presented with a certificate and official nametag.

Where Shall We Meet? – Dave Kinneberg spoke about a suggestion he received regarding holding our monthly business meetings at other sites. He presented four options to the membership

and asked for feedback.

The options are:

No change; continue to meet at HCYEC (except January).

Away meeting once per year at one of our other represented counties – Bandera, Kimble, Kendall.

Meet in every county once per year

Rotate each month with each of our counties.

There was some discussion on the topic among the membership and will be put to a vote at the November meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Public Programs – Ray Tiemann talked about the success of the Learn Your Lawn and Landscape class recently held in Fredericksburg. He stated there were 56 in attendance. On February 24th, a Plantastic seminar will be held 9am-3pm. The class will consist of small container gardening, irrigation, tomatoes, composting and vermiculture. Ray is also working on planning an event in Kerrville in the spring. Please provide Ray with your ideas of topics for the training.

Glory Community Garden – Pam Umstead is asking for everyone to come to the Fall Fest at the Glory Community Garden on October 22nd from 11am to 1pm. Along with other community partners, HCMG's will also have a booth.

Nominating Committee Report – Donna Bellis, as well as the other members of the Nominating Committee (Janell Dahms and Barbara Castillo) met and have made the following recommendations for next year's Executive Committee positions:

President: Dave Kinneberg

Vice President: Rae Raiford

Secretary: Rita Aliperto

Treasurer: Rachel Garrison

The membership will vote on the slate of officers at the November meeting.

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Education Committee – Donna Bellis reported there will be an Education Committee meeting on October 27th. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please let Donna know. A new flyer was created advertising the upcoming class, which starts February 14, 2023. Applications can be obtained on the HCMG website, or they can sign up in the Ag Extension Office. Cost is the same (\$200, includes the book; \$300 for a couple).

Other Announcements –

“Every Drop Matters” - Dave Kinneberg mentioned this training for October 8, 2022.

Spotted Lanternfly – Frank Dunlap indicated there was an invasive moth threatening mostly fruit trees and vines. It originated from Asia and is spreading westward from Pennsylvania. If seen, kill it!

Committee/Project Reports – Anne Brown said there was one more old table available from the greenhouse. Rachel Garrison’s husband and grandson built the new tables.

Hospitality Committee – Linda Proffitt spoke about our December meeting/Christmas party which will be a potluck at HCYEC. There will be a table decorating contest with a prize for the winners.

Newsletter Editor – Pat Wolters is asking for members to send her articles she can publish in the newsletter.

CEU Programs – Dave Kinneberg is booking speakers for CEU for 2023. If you have any suggestions, please notify Dave.

Logo Wear – Melayne Arnold let the newly certified MG’s know that they may now order logo wear.

Final Comments – Dave Kinneberg reminded the membership about the year-end duties:

- ♦ Nominate new board members.
- ♦ Volunteer-of-the-Year nominations turned in by November 15th.
- ♦ Choose our Christmas charity. It was indicated that Kendall County has next

in the rotation. Please advise if you know of a charity in Kendall County needing donations.

- ♦ The Volunteer Agreement, as well as Annual dues, are due from the membership by December 31st. Dues are \$20, payable to HCMG. The Volunteer Agreement is posted on our website. Please print, fill out, and bring to either November or December’s meetings. They may also be mailed to 3775 Hwy 27 East in Kerrville, Texas 78028.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aliperto, Secretary

Next Meeting: November 2, 2022 HCYEC



Hill Country Master Gardeners 2022

Executive Committee

Dave Kinneberg
President

Patti Schlessiger
Vice President

Rita Aliperto
Secretary

Rachel Garrison
Treasurer

Anne Brown
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor

Committees & Project Coordinators are listed on our website

Newsletter & Website

Newsletter Editor
Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
Judy Beauford for
proofreading

Photographer
Mark Shultz

Submissions to
Pat Wolters, Editor

Patwolters2865
@hotmail.com

Editor's Note

By Pat Wolters, MG, Newsletter Editor

I have been very concerned about the use of herbicides on Upper Turtle Creek Road (Highway 1273 in Kerrville). Herbicides are used throughout the state but I live on Turtle Creek and have seen the trucks and the dead vegetation in their wake. I started calling local road and bridge personnel who directed me to TxDOT who runs the herbicide program in the state of Texas. According to their website, TxDOT is "equipped with more than 300 specialized pieces of application equipment, TxDOT is responsible for maintaining more than 800,000 acres of roadside rights-of-way. Given this vast treatment area and the size of its fleet, the agency uses selective and nonselective herbicide applications to enhance results, increase productivity and free up one of the most valuable resources of all — time."

"Hand-pulling methods can be labor-intensive and time-consuming, and the exclusive use of mechanical treatment strategies during the growing season also leads to the detrimental cutting or removal of desirable vegetation. As a result of mowing exclusively, practitioners can inadvertently hinder the development of native plant communities and aid the reestablishment of problematic plant species. Comparatively, the flexibility of various herbicide applications enables TxDOT to maintain total vegetation control on the roads and support the development of native plant communities on ROW land to form a natural barrier against incompatible vegetation."

I spoke with Rodney, the TxDOT representative located in Kerrville (830 257 8444), who informed me that due to cost issues, mowing is contracted on the road rights-a-way twice a year, in October or November and in the spring after the wildflower bloom. The TxDOT website states that the total cost of mechanical removal for side-trimming control of roadside vegetation ranges from approximately **\$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00 per mile of road** side treated. This includes personnel, equipment, and other direct and related expenditures such as supplies, fuel, etc. Herbicide Methods— TxDOT data indicate that the total cost of herbicide applications for side-trimming control of roadside vegetation averages approximately **\$140.00 per mile**. So you can see that one of the reasons for the use of herbicides is the financial cost to the state of Texas. He stated that the herbicide used is a no-drift Roundup. He also said that if you lived along a county road and didn't want to have your land sprayed or mowed, you could send a request to TxDot and they would avoid your property. Of course, then you would be responsible to keep the rights-of-way clear. Stay tuned.